

**A NEW SPECIES OF *GALIUM* (RUBIACEAE) FROM NORTHEASTERN MEXICO**

B.L. Turner

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

**ABSTRACT**

*Galium hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described and illustrated. It is a prostrate rhizomatous herb with numerous relatively small leaves and is known only from southernmost Tamaulipas, México, where it occurs in oak woodlands between 1300 and 1900 meters.

**KEY WORDS:** Rubiaceae, *Galium*, México, Tamaulipas, systematics

Routine identification of plants from the Sierra Madre Oriental of northeastern Mexico has revealed the following novelty.

***GALIUM HINTONIORUM*** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Tamaulipas: Mpio. Guemes, Los Pedros, "Grass savannah in oak woods," 1355 m, 10 Nov 1994, *Hinton, et al.* 25127 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Simile *G. microphylo* A. Gray sed foliis plerumque parvioribus, nigrescentibus in sicco (vice viridium), apicibus foliorum tantum acutatis (vice apicum apiculatum), et fructificationibus pubescentibus (vice glabrarum) cum pilis parvis arcuatisque.

Prostrate rhizomatous herbs 10 cm high or less. Stems moderately white-pilose with spreading hairs to densely ciliate with upcurved arcuate hairs, the vestiture 0.1-0.3 mm high. Leaves 4 to a node throughout, numerous and much overlapping; petioles ca. 0.25 mm long; blades ovate-elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, mostly 3-9 mm long, 1-2 mm wide, uninervate, glabrous or nearly so, shiny, the margins entire and thickened, the apices merely acute. Flowers few, mostly axillary and shortly pedicellate but some of them seemingly terminal and sessile. Flowers rotate campanulate, the petals 2-3 mm long, glabrous. Fruiting bodies ca. 1.2 mm long, moderately and evenly ornate with arcuate upcurved hairs.

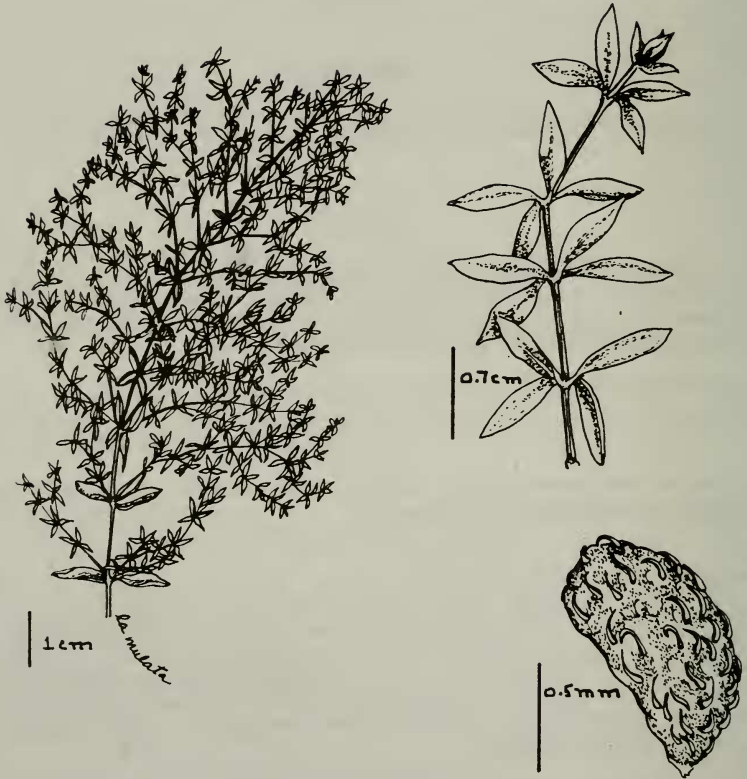


Figure 1. *Galium hintoniorum*, from holotype; upper right, portion of midstem showing leaves; lower right, fruiting body.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Tamaulipas: Mpio. Hidalgo, Los Caballos, 1705 m, 21 Sep 1994, *Hinton, et al.* 24804 (TEX); road from Sta. Engracia toward Dulces Nombres, N.L., 0.3 mi W of Paraje de Los Caballos (22° 58' 39" N × 99° 29' 31" W), 1840 m, 21 Sep 1994, *Nesom* 7460 with Jaime Hinton & M. Mayfield) (TEX).

*Galium hintoniorum* much resembles *G. microphyllum* but it apparently lacks the 4-bracted flowers of that taxon, and the fruits are ornamented with recurved hairs, as illustrated in Figure 1. Additionally, the foliage dries black and is more densely packed, the leaves lacking whip-like acuminations at their apices as occur in *G. microphyllum*.

In short, the species appears to stand somewhere between the *Relubium* taxa (*Galium microphyllum*, et al.) and the more typical elements of *Galium*, seemingly vitiating the characters upon which these two genera are founded.

The species is named for the Hinton family, all of the collections having been made by or with Jaime Hinton, the extant patriarch of that remarkable clan.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnosis, and to her and Ted Delevoryas for reviewing the manuscript. Maria Thompson provided the illustration.